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JCO. Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 DEC 2000

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: STEFAN ETZOLD ET AL-1 (PCT)  
PCT No.: PCT/DE 99/01793 FILED: JUNE 18, 1999  
TITLE: PROCEDURE FOR CREATING A FLEECE MADE OF FIBERS

*Pre Amended*  
*5/a*  
*3/8/01*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**BOX PCT**

Ass't. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after last line, insert as new paragraph:

--In DE 34 16 004 A1, there is a prior-art process in which an unbonded fleece of thermoplastic fibers is fed to a calender roller arrangement, and the thermoplastic material is melted and displaced by pressure in the area of the holes by the calender roller arrangement. This produces a liquid bump at the edge of the holes to form a bonded grid to stabilize and fix the remaining fleece sheet. A hard melted edge is specifically created to reinforce the fleece sheet which is positive for the strength of the fleece sheet, but is disadvantageous due to the hardness of the melted edges.--

A1